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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 24 March 2017

34/18. Freedom of opinion and expression: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 7/36 of 28 March 2008, 12/16 of 2 October 2009, 16/4 of 24 March 2011, 25/2 of 13 June 2013 and 25/2 of 27 March 2014, and all previous resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Council on the right to freedom of opinion and expression,

Recognizing that the effective exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is essential for the enjoyment of other human rights and freedoms and constitutes a fundamental pillar for building a democratic society and strengthening democracy, bearing in mind that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, on the institution-building of the Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression;

2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period of three years;

3. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his or her tasks, to provide all necessary information requested by him or her and to consider favourably his or her requests for visits and for implementing his or her recommendations;

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4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the assistance necessary to the Special Rapporteur to fulfil the mandate, in particular by placing adequate human and material resources at his or her disposal;

5. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an annual report to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly covering all activities relating to his or her mandate, with a view to maximizing the benefits of the reporting process;

6. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the issue of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in accordance with its programme of work.

57th meeting
24 March 2017

[Adopted without a vote.]